

**Fact Sheet:**  
**U.S. and Indonesia Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Combating Illegal Logging and Associated Trade**



Public Affairs  
Section

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Enhanced cooperation between U.S. and Indonesian Governments will facilitate trade in legal timber products, support international efforts to combat illegal logging, and contribute to sound management and protection of forestry resources.

On November 17, 2006, U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Susan Schwab, Indonesian Minister of Trade Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, and Indonesian Minister of Forestry M.S. Kaban signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Combating Illegal Logging and Associated Trade.

- The MOU establishes a framework for the United States and Indonesian Governments to cooperate to help ensure market access for legally-produced products; complement national and international efforts to combat illegal logging and associated trade; promote more transparent trade and markets; and contribute to Indonesia's effort to restructure its forest industries.
- The MOU establishes a Working Group on Combating Illegal Logging and Associated Trade under the United States-Indonesia Trade and Investment Framework Agreement. The Working Group will meet regularly, identify priority actions, and issue biennial reports that will be made publicly available.
- The MOU provides for ongoing collaboration between U.S. and Indonesian authorities: exchanges of information on trade in timber products, including information on potential shipments of illegally-produced timber products; enhanced law enforcement cooperation; joint action in certain regional and international bodies; and partnerships with non-governmental entities.
- The MOU builds upon existing commitments of both Governments, including Indonesian Presidential Instruction No. 4 of 2005 Related to Illegal Logging and Timber and President Bush's Initiative Against Illegal Logging, launched in 2003.
- This agreement is the first of its kind for both countries. This is the U.S. Government's first MOU addressing illegal logging and associated trade with any country. The MOU is also unique for Indonesia in that it addresses trade aspects of this issue, and it provides for participation and support from a wide range of relevant agencies within both Governments.
- It is estimated that half of Indonesia's original 120 million hectares of virgin rainforest have been deforested. The remaining 60 million hectares is disappearing at a rate of 2.8 million hectares per year. At this pace, Indonesia's remaining rainforests could disappear in 20 years.